# Bryan Chu: Lights, camera, action

*DECK: Bryan Chu watches movies and makes his own films.*

# ***by:*** *Justin Guo*

## **Word Count:** 422

## Image: /images/bryan.png

## Attribution: Bryan Chu

## ID: bryan-chu

## Date: April 3 2021

## Tag: profiles

## Photo/Graphic with credit (required for sign off): asking for photos

**Caption:**

## Linked to spreadsheet? yes

Bryan Chu remembers being intrigued by the power of film in middle school when he regularly watched movie reviews and video essays on YouTube. As a freshman, Chu started watching many more movies and grew even more fascinated.

“I really like film because it's visual and temporal,” Chu said. “It has the ability to immerse you into a very real experience in a way that’s unique to film as a medium.”

Chu joined the Media Arts Program as a sophomore and supplemented his learning by attending a weekly art and film workshop in San Francisco called SF Film Workshop.

Before junior year, Chu attended the California State Summer School for the Arts (CSSSA), an intensive four week art summer camp. One of the films that Chu made at CSSSA — a self-proclaimed psychedelic autobiography appropriately titled “Anatomy of a Narcissist (or the futile and profound art of attempting to swallow one’s self)” — got accepted into the experimental section of the All American High School Festival 2020 official selection.

In his spare time, Chu has made several films, which he sometimes uploads to his YouTube channel. He normally aims for narrative-based films no longer than 5 minutes. Though he has often cast friends as actors, Chu has focused on making arresting visuals — such as scenery and shot composition — the strongest part of his films.

“One huge thing you’ll see in almost all student short films is that acting is really hard,” Chu said. “So my short-film ideas usually don’t have any dialogue or music as well because I focus on the visuals a lot.”

But due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chu hasn’t been able to produce his regular films. Instead, he’s shifted to experimenting with more visually abstract work that is completely devoid of plot.

“The idea is to take away all elements of story, plot and character and evoke tones of feelings through pure abstract visuals, like visual music,” Chu said. “Some of the themes that frequently come up in my films are isolation, emptiness and existential boredom.”

Moving forward, Chu plans to attend film school at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts and one day work in the film industry.

“I think film is the end in itself,” Chu said. “I want to make as many films as I can and get my artistic expression out into the world as best as I can. There’s no auxiliary goal after that.”